

AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF ARKANSAS
P.O. BOX 250909
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72225
PHONE: 501.376.0455 | FAX: 501.376.0081
WWW.AGCOUNCIL.NET



NATHAN REED	President
JEFF RUTLEDGE	1st Vice President
JOE MENCER	2nd Vice President
RICK BRANSFORD	Treasurer
ANDREW GROBMYER	Executive Vice President

October 24, 2024

Dear Members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation,

Re: Request for Support of FARM Act

On behalf of members of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas, an organization representing farmers, landowners, and agriculture related businesses involved in row-crop production in Arkansas, we want to request your immediate assistance in working to advance legislation that provides a near-term safety net to help farmers and the agriculture industry with the dire economic situation we currently face.

A soon to be filed House bill, known as the Farmer Assistance and Revenue Mitigation Act of 2024 (FARM Act), drafted by Representative Trent Kelly in cooperation with First District Congressman Rick Crawford would provide much needed assistance to Arkansas farmers in a manner that would provide timely and meaningful relief to Arkansas crop farmers who are suffering mightily from challenging weather, high input costs, elevated interest costs, and deeply depressed commodity futures markets and poor local cash markets.

Unfortunately, because the farm bill is greatly disconnected with the current farm economy, safety net programs established in the 2018 farm bill are not providing the support they were originally designed to deliver in hard times. The current situation places farms, agriculture related businesses, and communities in a perilous position. The FARM Act proposes to create and deliver a safety net that the farm bill is currently unable to provide, and that support is desperately needed to prevent a projected economic disaster that's anticipated should Congress fail to act.

In addition to requesting your co-sponsorship and support of this near-term proposal for immediate economic relief, we continue to ask for your support in passing updates included in the bipartisan House Agriculture Committee passed farm bill that will correct the farm safety net flaws for the 2025 crop year and beyond by strengthening commodity and crop insurance titles.

Agriculture is the foundation of our state's economy, and an unhealthy agriculture economy harms all Arkansans and threatens our national security. We urge your assistance in standing up for farmers and helping them through this challenging time. We view this situation to be of critical importance to the entire economy and citizenry of Arkansas.

Thank you for listening to our concerns and taking action to support Arkansas farmers. We wish you well upon your return to Washington, and we stand ready to assist in seeing such policies advance.

Sincerely,

Nathan B. Reed
President
Agricultural Council of Arkansas